



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ("HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

NASHUA CRACK RING INVESTIGATION OF "THA FAM"

Re: United States v. Angel Rosario, Angel Melendez, Angel Arroyo, Robert King, Lewis Clark, and Donna Whittington

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, DEA Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, Hillsborough County Attorney Marguerite Wageling, and Nashua Police Chief Donald Gross announced several convictions in the joint DEA - Nashua Police Narcotics Investigations Unit investigation of a Nashua-based street gang known as "Tha Fam." The final two defendants in the case have been convicted of federal crack distribution charges. The defendants are:

- **Angel L. ROSARIO, a/k/a "Macho,"** date of birth of 09/03/66, of Nashua, the reputed leader of "Tha Fam"; and
- **Rob KING, a/k/a "Black," a/k/a "Black Rob,"** date of birth of 06/02/74, of Nashua.

On March 24, 2004, ROSARIO entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute over 5 grams of "crack" cocaine. Judge Barbadoro detained ROSARIO without bail pending his sentencing hearing scheduled for June 24, 2004. He faces a potential maximum sentence of 40 years imprisonment, and a minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment.

On March 25, 2004, KING entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute "crack" cocaine. Judge DiClerico detained KING without bail pending his sentencing hearing scheduled for July 1, 2004. Although the charge normally carries a potential maximum prison sentence of

20 years, KING's prior criminal record exposes him to a potential maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment.

Previously convicted individuals as a result of the investigation include:

- **Angel MELENDEZ, a/k/a "Bebe,"** date of birth of 02/21/85, of Nashua;
- **Lewis CLARK, a/k/a "L," a/k/a "L Boogie,"** date of birth of 01/11/78, of Nashua;
- **Angel ARROYO,** date of birth of 02/02/84, of Nashua; and
- **Donna WHITTINGTON, a/k/a Donna HARTCOPF,** date of birth of 07/08/56, of Nashua.

MELENDEZ, CLARK, ARROYO and WHITTINGTON previously entered guilty pleas to federal crack cocaine distribution charges. MELENDEZ faces a potential sentence of 40 years imprisonment and a 5 year mandatory minimum sentence, while CLARK, ARROYO and WHITTINGTON face up to 20 years imprisonment. Each will be sentenced in U.S. District Court in June, 2003. MELENDEZ and CLARK are detained without bail pending sentencing.

According to an affidavit filed in support of a Criminal Complaint issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead on November 5, 2003, ROSARIO, MELENDEZ, ARROYO, KING, and CLARK were members of "Tha Fam," a group of individuals living in Nashua bearing tattoos reading "THA FAM" or "FAM 4 LIFE" who engaged in the street level distribution of crack cocaine in Nashua during 2002 and 2003. The affidavit states that photographs have been seized pursuant to several search warrants issued by the Nashua District Court depicting various members of "Tha Fam" exhibiting their "FAM" tattoos and flashing "gang signs" with their hands. The affidavit also states that Alberto Allende, aka "Machito," who was convicted in the U.S. District Court of crack distribution on September 30, 2002, was also a member of the group.

The arrests resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Nashua Police Department's Narcotics Investigations Unit and DEA's Northern New England HIDTA Task Force. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF"), and Special Assistant United States Attorney Charles Keefe, formerly of the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office in Nashua, and currently of the N.H. Attorney General's Office.

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